



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate,
who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.*

John 14:16-17

June 2019 Newsletter

A Letter from Mark

"You of little faith. Why are you so afraid?"

(Matthew 8:26 NIV)



I recently preached on this passage of Scripture. You may know the story of Jesus calming the storm. The disciples, four of whom were experienced fishermen, were in fear for their lives as the squall threatened to sweep them all away. When the disciples could stand the terror no longer they awoke Jesus and the words above are His response! A bit unreasonable maybe? There you have it! Reason can only take us so far, but in the face of death, we tend to be reason-free as fear takes over!

When John Wesley was on one of his first missionary journeys going across the Atlantic to America to try and convert the natives he encountered a terrible storm and was equally terrified at the thought of perishing in the deep. However, to his amazement there was a group of Moravian Christians on board, including women and children, who were praying and praising God at total peace even in the thick of the storm. They were at peace with God and weren't afraid to 'meet their Maker'! Even the little children! This experience deeply affected John Wesley and through his associations with Peter Bohler, the leader of this German group of Puritan Christians, John Wesley realized that he wasn't truly saved, but only a God-fearing religious man. He lacked something. He sought God. He prayed. He read the Scriptures. And then on 24 May 1738 it happened. Here is a quote from his journal (which I thoroughly recommend you get a copy of and read avidly!) -

*'In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistles to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away **my** sins, even **mine**, and saved **me** from the law of sin and death.'*

Wonderful! Religious notions became a living, personal faith and trust in Christ and John Wesley was given an assurance from the Holy Spirit that he was right with God. From that moment on his life was transformed and fear of man and fear of death were a thing of the past because he knew that his sins were forgiven and that he was at peace with God.



Dear reader, do you have that assurance from the Holy Spirit? You may even be a Methodist member, but without that gift from the Holy Spirit fear can rob us of the joy of really knowing Jesus. Or maybe you once knew that close walk with God, but through the storms of life you've been robbed of that simple joy and peace of knowing Christ. Either way, I urge you to seek the Lord afresh so that His love will drive out all fear – whatever kind it is – and that you will live in that glorious assurance and hope.

If you'd like to talk about this further do let me know, I'd be more than happy to help.

As ever, yours in Christ,
Rev Mark

Methodists Enjoying Life Together

Skittles and Games Evening

Saturday 13 July 5:00-8:00 pm
in the Church
Including a pasty supper.



This is an ideal event for families, friends and neighbours.
Tickets on sale soon.

Advanced Notices

Autumn event date TBA
Quiz probably at Rugby Club

Saturday 11 January 2020
IMC'S GOT TALENT !!!
An evening not to be missed.
Start rehearsing your act now!



June Worship

IVYBRIDGE

June 2	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6:30 pm	No Limits - Phil and Jean Walsh
June 9	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
June 16	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
	6:30 pm	Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
June 23	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
June 30	10:30 am	Rev Simon Leigh
	6:30 pm	No Limits - Phil and Jean Walsh
July 7	10:30 am	Rev David Martin
	6:30 pm	No Limits - Phil and Jean Walsh
July 14	10:30 am	Miss Judith Walker

BITTAFORD

June 2	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 9	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
June 16	11:00 am	Mr Tony Kirk
June 23	11:00 am	Mrs Di Smart
June 30	11:00 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
July 7	11:00 am	Loral Arrangement
July 14	11:00 am	Mrs Mary McNaughton

*The speakers have been taken from Circuit Plan
and are correct to the best of the Editor's knowledge.*

From the Editor ...

Please note that the next issue of the Newsletter, apart from being my last, will be a double issue. If you would like to include anything in the July/August Newsletter, please let me have the details by Monday 10 June in any of the following ways:-



- ♥ send it by email to -
contact@jennyhansford.co.uk
- ♥ ring me on 01752 894634
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at - 10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge

Jenny

June Thompson



Mr John Thompson and his family would like to express their grateful thanks to Rev Mark and the church for all their support, kindness and sympathy at this sad time, especially Marilyn Davis and Ruth Whitfield.

Everyone was so supportive to my Dad and it just shows how many saints there are living in Ivybridge. Thank you so much

Every blessing

Penny Cook
(Daughter)

Mid-week Holy Communion
First Tuesday of each month
1:30-2:00 pm in the Concourse

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence



June News

If you have anything you would like included in the Church News please let Judy Jago know at church, or ring her on 894829.

Welcome to the news - hoping we've covered all the exciting things happening and looking forward to all you all have to share in the months to come. Please let Judy or Val know.

Many congratulations to Victor Abbott who topped the polls to be elected the South Hams District Councillor for Ivybridge East as the Lib Dem candidate. A lot of hard work went into the campaign and now, I guess, the hard work continues and it would be good if we, as a church, could pledge to pray for Vic and also Sara Hladkij and Mike Cade who sit as Ivybridge Town Councillors as they deliberate on many decisions that affect all our lives.



Congratulations!



We send our warmest congratulations and much love to Joy and Nigel Phillips as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 2 June. We hope the celebrations go well and the years to come are full of blessings.

Also celebrating are Teresa and Steve Northmore as their 30th wedding anniversary is this month too. We wish you many warm congratulations, love and blessings for the years ahead.



Naomi Ricketts is taking off to Zambia as part of her gap year to volunteer with Tear Fund. She will be working in schools and with women's group in and around Lusaka. Naomi, we wish you every blessing and safe travels, and look forward to hearing all about it on your return. We will pray for you whilst you are away.

Rodger Reid celebrates a big birthday this month and we wish you many happy returns, and wonderful celebrations. Remember - it's only a number!!



Sue Pengilley is about to become a Granny again very soon as her daughter, Teresa, is adopting a 14 month old little girl called Nyssa. Sue, we wish you much joy as you get to know the little one and much fun together over the years to come.



Good to know Sally Pearce is home and picking up life after her stay in Derriford. Hopefully they have got things under control now Sally and we hope you continue to get stronger over the coming weeks.



Carol Kempthorne's Mum died recently and with our sympathies comes our love and prayers Carol as you and the family come to terms with your loss, and work through all the inevitable paperwork and sorting out.

We still have poorly people to pray for - especially for results awaited and recoveries to "hurry up", remembering God knows who they are as we pray.



Wise and Wonderful

We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays, from 2:30 until 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time



Summer 2019

7 June

"Message in a bottle": keeping safe
with Andy Vincent of Ivybridge Lions

21 June

Cream Tea at Loddiswell
Leaving at 2:00 pm. Booking essential.

5 July

Mission Aviation Fellowship
with Christopher Frost

19 July

Visit to Saint Luke's Church, Buckfastleigh

*We are an open fellowship, and look forward to your visit.
Please note that, if you would like to come out with us on 21 June or 19 July,
you need to book in plenty of time.*

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614 Maureen Sara 894198

Judy 894829 Sue 896444 Christine and David 892858



A Vassal State?

Thank you for praying for Cambodia. This month, please pray about China's increasing involvement there.

Cambodia's Prime Minister was among 5,000 participants from more than 150 countries and 36 heads of state who attended China's Second Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing in April. Cambodia is one of China's closest allies in Southeast Asia. China has become Cambodia's largest economic influencer, being the largest foreign investor, largest bilateral donor, largest trading partner, largest buyer of Cambodian rice, and largest source of foreign tourists in the country. In March, China and Cambodia conducted their biggest ever joint military exercise.

Prime Minister Hun Sen assured his people that embracing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would not cause Cambodia to fall into a debt trap, but one academic has pointed out that Cambodia is already indebted to China to the tune of \$3.5 million and stands to take on further debt through the BRI.

"China is Cambodia's largest trade partner, but this relationship is heavily skewed in China's favour," commented the US Embassy. "About 87% of trade are Chinese imports, which do not support jobs or industry in the same way Cambodia's trade relationship with the United States or EU does. This is just one more way Cambodia has shifted from a more balanced and diverse economic approach to one more dependent on China."

Sihanoukville used to be a sleepy coastal town in south Cambodia but has been transformed beyond recognition. Now an enclave of Chinese investment, Sihanoukville is peppered with Chinese-run, operated and patronised hotels, apartment towers, restaurants and gambling dens. The area is dotted with Chinatowns and festooned with neon signs in Mandarin.

Chinese tourists accounted for one-third of the 6.2 million visitors Cambodia received last year, but according to one commentator, Chinese tourists tend to insulate themselves from local businesses. "In my experience, Chinese tourists do show a strong tendency to favour Chinese-owned-and-run businesses, be they restaurants, hotels, tourist shops, or tour businesses," he said. "When operating overseas, Chinese companies also prefer to hire Chinese nationals as employees whenever possible, rather than employing local residents."

"Most of them, they go to Chinese [businesses], because they have Chinese owners," said a tour guide. "They don't often go to Cambodian [businesses]."



"The influx of Chinese tourists has created opportunities for Chinese mafia to come in and commit various crimes and kidnap Chinese investors, causing insecurity in the province," wrote Sihanoukville Governor Yun Min in a letter to the Interior Ministry, which governs the Cambodia National Police.

The Prime Minister has dismissed concerns that Cambodia is becoming a Chinese vassal state.

"I want to make it clear," he affirmed. "I will not permit Chinese control and I know clearly about Chinese policy, meaning they don't want to control anybody."

Myers Cooper

IMC Church Council Youth Work Report :



Hi Church!



Thank you so much for all your support whether in volunteering or praying. We do value everything this church does, especially involving the youth work. Also a massive THANK YOU to all our cake makers who have made some awesome cakes for us this year.

We are super excited about all God is doing in the church. However, as the youth generation changes at an ever growing pace, we need to keep up by keeping relevant whilst not changing the message, studying the Bible to understand it better while making it simple enough for the young people to understand.

Secondary School group work

This work comes with all sorts of challenges, working with some of the most challenging young people, to others who are as good as



gold. Responses range from a foot through the wall to “Thankyou for running this club”, “It’s the best club ever”!

For all our clubs we have been doing a massive advertising campaign to try and grow a few of the smaller groups. So if you feel you could have a poster in your window please let me know. We see around 20-25 young people across this age range.

Solarflare Beach Party 2019

We are starting to get very excited for this year’s Beach Party! We have 2,000 flyers going out all over Devon. We have a minibus already coming from as far as Cornwall this year and Exeter and all across Devon. We **NEED YOUR HELP!** If you are available and would like to be involved this year please talk to us. You will have an unforgettable evening.

Primary school group work

These groups continue to stay strong with young people from a church background and no church background coming under the sound of the GOOD NEWS of JESUS. It is lovely to hear some of their questions and prayers as they speak to Jesus, “I hope you have had a good day” and “Thankyou for looking after my grandpa in heaven”. It is a real blessing to see them grow up through the kids’ work and then into the youth groups and really see them getting to know Jesus for themselves and understanding what a relationship with Jesus is! We see around 50 across the weeks groups.

**SAVE THE DATE: PARTY IN THE PARK
15 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Prayer Points

- ◆ Young people to continue to attend
- ◆ Young people to come to know Jesus for themselves
- ◆ Energy for the leaders and volunteers
- ◆ New volunteers for all of the above events



If you feel God calling you to **join** our **team** or volunteer for one of the events above, (you can be aged between 18-110) we will be able to find a place for any gifts from just listening to leading, serving tuck shop to washing up, so please do chat to me on **07816 910 152** or email **phil_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk**

Phil



The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation
Sunday 24 - Friday 29 November 2019 - Cliff College, Derbyshire

Worship - Teaching - Silence - Reflection
with

Cathy Bird and Steve Radley

Divine Darkness, Divine Light

Through a programme of worship, teaching, silence and reflection
based on a Benedictine monastic pattern

The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation aims to

- **root spirituality in Christian faith and tradition**
- **provide opportunity for participation in community life**
 - **form people for life in a changing world**

Divine Darkness, Divine Light will be explored in daily presentations by:

Cathy Bird Having worked in social policy and research, Cathy was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1997. She has always ministered in urban environments and is passionate about mission as justice, inclusivity and hospitality. A lover of the winter months, in 2013 Cathy travelled to Svalbard in the Arctic Circle to research 'The Divine Heart of Darkness', published in 2017. An experience writer of liturgy and hymns, a Spiritual Director and leader of retreats, Cathy is also a qualified life coach.

Steve Radley is an Anglican Priest and photographer who combines the creativity of photography with theology and well-being. He has served in parish ministry and the RAF Chaplains' Branch. On leaving the military he undertook professional training. Combining his lifelong passion in photography with his ministry and study he now leads image-based retreats and workshops. Through this he aims to help people see new possibilities in life, deepening relationships with self, others and God, fostering a sense of peace.

The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation

will cost £495 per person

This includes full board in single accommodation, daily teaching
and full use of the facilities at Cliff College.

Payment in instalments is an option.

To find out more

or request a registration form, contact the Registrar -
Jill Baker, 11 Duthie Park Gardens, Glasgow, G13 1GB
0141 959 7951

By email - fivedaycsf@btinternet.com

Church Contacts



Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence Tel: 01752-651910
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Senior Stewards:

Mr Reg Marriott Tel: 01752 893614
Mrs Alison White Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:

John and Pam Montgomery
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House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

Prayer Line

07801 956695

If you have any items for the
July/August Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Monday 10 June

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website
you can do so at mrmerrit@icloud.com